



HR1054

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, J. Dennis Hastert was born in Aurora, Illinois, on  
3           January 2, 1942, but is a true son of Kendall County, Illinois,  
4           having grown up in Oswego, which was a farm town in the time of  
5           his youth; the "Denny" who became a familiar figure to  
6           television audiences around the world started out as a carrier  
7           of 100-pound feed bags for the agricultural supply business  
8           that his family owned and operated; and

9           WHEREAS, The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert is both a teacher  
10          and a maker of history, having served as both an instructor of  
11          history at Kendall County's Yorkville High School and as the  
12          longest-serving Republican Speaker in the annals of the United  
13          States House of Representatives; and

14          WHEREAS, Dennis Hastert's service to Yorkville High as both  
15          a teacher and a coach culminated when he successfully mentored  
16          the "Foxes" to their wrestling State championship in 1975-1976,  
17          and was named the Illinois Wrestling Coach of the Year; and

18          WHEREAS, Dennis Hastert has since been elevated to the  
19          Illinois Wrestling Coaches' Hall of Fame; and

20          WHEREAS, As a community leader, Dennis Hastert was a  
21          natural choice by his Aurora-based district to be one of their

1 three State representatives in November of 1980; and

2 WHEREAS, In his three terms in the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives, Dennis Hastert served alongside legislators  
4 such as Michael J. Madigan, Barbara Flynn Currie, Tim Johnson,  
5 and Ron Stephens, rising to the position of minority  
6 spokesperson on the Appropriations II Committee; and

7 WHEREAS, While on course to what would have been his  
8 unopposed election to a fourth term in the Illinois House in  
9 1986, Dennis Hastert was selected by his fellow local  
10 Republican Party leaders as a substitute candidate to replace  
11 the Honorable John E. Grotberg, congressman from Illinois's  
12 Fourteenth District, after tragic health concerns forced  
13 Grotberg to relinquish his nomination for re-election to  
14 Congress; and

15 WHEREAS, In November of 1986, the Honorable J. Dennis  
16 Hastert was elected by the people of northern Illinois to  
17 represent them in the 100th Congress, and Coach Hastert was  
18 himself coached as a freshman representative by his  
19 predecessor, John Grotberg, and Grotberg's staff, by his  
20 Illinois Republican colleague and mentor, Robert Michel of  
21 Peoria, by his Illinois Republican colleague, Ed Madigan of  
22 Lincoln, and by many other Congressmen and women from both  
23 political parties; and

1           WHEREAS, When Dennis Hastert entered Congress, the United  
2 States House of Representatives had been controlled for more  
3 than thirty years by a Democratic majority, but in November of  
4 1994, the American people selected Republican candidates to  
5 serve in the majority and organize the House of Representatives  
6 in the 104th Congress; and

7           WHEREAS, As a member of both the minority and the majority  
8 parties in Congress, Dennis Hastert served on the House Energy  
9 and Commerce Committee and specialized in the issues of job  
10 creation and economic growth; and

11           WHEREAS, Dennis Hastert worked with members of both  
12 political parties on concerns of the Chicago metropolitan area,  
13 including the health of Chicago's financial futures and  
14 derivatives markets, long-term growth plans for Chicago's  
15 O'Hare International Airport, and the cleanup of the thorium  
16 dumpsite in West Chicago, which was, at one time, the second  
17 largest radioactive waste site in the United States; and

18           WHEREAS, Dennis Hastert worked on many issues of national  
19 and international importance, including the development of  
20 alternative energy sources and bio-fuels, the War on Drugs, and  
21 American health care; and

1           WHEREAS, Congressman Hastert served as Chairman of the  
2 Congressional Anti-Drug Task Force; and

3           WHEREAS, Dennis Hastert headed the legislative effort that  
4 mediated between disparate interests and developed and passed  
5 the federal Patients' Bill of Rights; and

6           WHEREAS, Coach Hastert impressed his Republican colleagues  
7 with his grasp of national policy issues, his friendliness, and  
8 his emotional connection with the concerns of the American  
9 heartland; in December of 1998, his colleagues chose the  
10 Honorable J. Dennis Hastert to lead their caucus as their  
11 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives in the  
12 106th Congress; and

13           WHEREAS, It fell upon Speaker Dennis Hastert to lead  
14 America's House of Representatives on September 11, 2001; and

15           WHEREAS, During the traumatic days immediately after 9/11,  
16 Dennis Hastert presided over a House of Representatives in  
17 which partisan concerns were temporarily submerged into a  
18 common desire to respond to the crisis as a united nation and a  
19 unified body of lawmakers, with many key items of  
20 ground-breaking legislation passed that reflected this  
21 national perspective; and

1           WHEREAS, During and after those unforgettable days,  
2 Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert was a familiar figure on  
3 television screens across the world in his role as the  
4 presiding officer of the House when it is addressed by national  
5 leaders and heads of state, including the President of the  
6 United States when delivering the annual State of the Union  
7 Address and special addresses to Congress; and

8           WHEREAS, America's Speaker of the House, Dennis Hastert,  
9 presided over the federal House of Representatives through four  
10 biennial congressional terms, covering the 106th, 107th,  
11 108th, and 109th Congresses, a longer period of service than  
12 any other Speaker from the Republican Party; and

13           WHEREAS, Dennis Hastert has announced his desire to resume  
14 his career as an educator by leading the creation of the J.  
15 Dennis Hastert Center for Economics, Government and Public  
16 Policy at Wheaton College, the college from which he graduated  
17 in 1964; and

18           WHEREAS, "Denny" Hastert, during his momentous time of  
19 national leadership, has been sustained by his connections to  
20 the people of northern Illinois, and above all by his personal  
21 faith; therefore, be it

22           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

1 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
2 acknowledge the contributions of the Honorable J. Dennis  
3 Hastert as an esteemed former member of the Illinois House of  
4 Representatives, as a Congressman, and as the four-time elected  
5 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; and be  
6 it further

7 RESOLVED, That we thank Jean Kahl Hastert, the wife of the  
8 Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, and Speaker Hastert's two sons,  
9 Joshua Hastert and Ethan Hastert, for their support of "Denny"  
10 Hastert during the traumatic times that surrounded his period  
11 of national responsibility; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That we never forget that a native son of  
13 Illinois was on hand to help guide our nation through these  
14 years of grave crisis; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this Preamble and  
16 Resolution be presented to the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert in  
17 remembrance of his years of State and national service.